

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 10-18 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated September 27, 2006, the drawing figures, specification and claims were objected to based on the contention that each section contained informalities in need of correction. Claims 10-18 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on matters related to form and claim drafting. Claims 10-16 and 18 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,682,325 ("Beck"). Lastly, claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,142,751 ("Krauter et al.").

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing objections and rejections are traversed.

Drawings

Applicant is submitting a corrected drawing sheet containing Figure 5. A legend has been added to Figure 5, as instructed in the Office Action. The drawing correction is related to form. No new matter has been added.

Specification

The paragraphs in the Abstract section have been replaced with a single paragraph, which complies with formal requirements. Excess verbiage, such as "The present invention relates to", have also been removed. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner's points regarding the term "ambience" are well received, and Applicant believes the term was inadvertently chosen. Applicants have amended claims 10, 12 and 13 to replace the term "ambience" with the suggested term "atmosphere." The Abstract was also corrected to effect this change. Claims 12 and 13 are also amended to remove informalities noted in the Office Action. In addition, all of the claims have been voluntarily amended to use appropriate articles in the preamble. The voluntary amendments and amendments made in response to the claim objections all relate to form, and are not intended to surrender any subject matter. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11-13, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended to address the informalities noted in the Office Action. These amendments all relate to form, and are not intended to surrender any subject matter. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections, and reconsideration of the claims as amended. Before discussing the claim amendments, it may be helpful to briefly explain a beneficial feature of the invention. Applicant's arrangement includes connecting channels, such as for example channels 9 and 12 in Fig. 2, that extend to different lateral surfaces of the accommodating member. The closing devices are thus arranged opposite each other at opposed lateral surfaces. In this arrangement, the connecting channels can be machined as a single through-bore in one operating cycle. This provides a more efficient venting and pressure compensation arrangement, and avoids special drilling processes and multiple drilling gauges during manufacture. The connecting channels are described in more detail in sections of the specification, including but not limited to page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 4.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite, among other features, a hydraulic unit for a hydraulic regulation device comprising two connecting channels arranged as one through-bore through the accommodating member, the two connecting channels leading into an atmosphere and being provided with closing devices arranged opposite each other at opposite lateral surfaces of the accommodating member. Independent claim 13 has been amended to recite a hydraulic unit for a hydraulic regulation device comprising two connecting channels arranged as one through-bore through the accommodating member, the two connecting channels leading into the atmosphere and being provided with closing devices, which hinder the ingress of fluid into the cavity and allow ventilation of the cavity and a discharge of leakage fluid into the atmosphere, the closing devices being arranged opposite each other at opposite lateral surfaces of the accommodating member. Support for these amendments is contained in the paragraph of the specification beginning on page 8, line 19 and ending on page 9, line 4, among other sections. No new matter has been added.

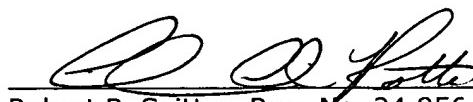
Applicants respectfully submit that Beck fails to teach the arrangement of connecting channels recited in amended claims 10 and 13. In Beck, there are a number of independent connecting channels 15, 16. These connecting channels are designed as independent bores some of which run parallel (see, e.g. dual channels 16, 16) and therefore cannot be formed from a single through-bore. Krauter et al. also fails to disclose connecting channels arranged in a single through-bore, as the connecting channels include a number of independently formed parallel bores. The benefits of a single through-bore extend beyond mere design choice for the reasons explained above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 10 and 13 are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 11, 12 and 17 are dependent on claim 10 and incorporate all the features of claim 10. Similarly, claims 14-16 and 18 are dependent on claim 13 and incorporate all the features of claim 13. Therefore, claims 11, 12 and 14-18 are believed to be allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that claims 10 and 13 are allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the informalities noted in the application are suitably addressed, and that the claims are in allowable form. If the Examiner believes there are any remaining issues that preclude allowance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (610) 407-0700 to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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RPS/CAR/dhm

Attachments: Replacement Drawing (sheet 3 of 3)

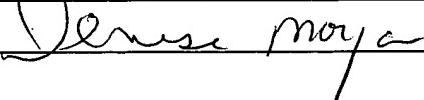
Dated: December 6, 2006

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

December 6, 2006



Appln. No.: 10/520,001
Amendment Dated December 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2006

PC10427US

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace the original drawing sheet containing Figure 5 (drawing sheet 3 of 3) with the corrected drawing sheet attached to this Amendment.

Attachment